

What is claimed is:

1. A spring arrangement comprising:

a plurality of spring and shock absorber assemblies;

each of said springs of said assemblies having first and second end positions ( $h_1, h_2$ ) and being characterized by a maximum spring deflection ( $\Delta h = h_2 - h_1$ );

level control unit assigned to the springs of said assemblies;

sensor means operatively connected to corresponding ones of said springs;

said level control unit and said sensor means coacting to determine and adjust the spring elevation ( $h_x$ ) between said first and second end positions;

said shock absorbers of said assemblies having respective coefficients of friction ( $\rho_x$ );

a shock absorber control unit connected to the shock absorbers of corresponding ones of said assemblies to adjust the damping hardness given by the corresponding coefficient of friction ( $\rho_x$ ); and,

the friction coefficient ( $\rho_x$ ) of each one of said shock absorbers being a function of the spring elevation ( $h_x$ ) measured for the spring associated therewith ( $\rho_x = f(h_x)$ ).

2. The spring arrangement of claim 1, wherein a shock absorber characteristic line ( $\rho_x = f(h_x)$ ) is characterized by an increase of said friction coefficient ( $\rho_x$ ) in a direction toward at least one of said end positions ( $h_1, h_2$ ).

3. The spring arrangement of claim 1, wherein there is a

progressive increase of the damping hardness in the close in region of at least one of said end positions ( $h_1$  and/or  $h_2$ ).

4. The spring arrangement of claim 1, further comprising an end-position control unit having an output coupled to the output of said shock absorber control unit.

5. The spring arrangement of claim 2, wherein said characteristic line ( $\rho_x$ ) is non-linear and is given by a support location table which is separately parameterized for a specific vehicle in accordance with pull and press steps.

6. The spring arrangement of claim 1, wherein said spring is an air spring.

7. The spring arrangement of claim 1, wherein said shock absorber is an air shock absorber.

8. The spring arrangement of claim 7, wherein the damping hardness of said air shock absorber is realized by a pressure increase therein.

9. The spring arrangement of claim 8, further comprising a pressure converter for realizing the pressure adaptation in the air shock absorber.